

THE OREGON TUALATIN VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

AN ARRL SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB



SPOTLIGHT ON A HAM

BY LORNA, KA7RFD

"Hello everybody, this is November Bravo Seven Whiskey." That unusual check-in introduces our ham of the month, John Koenig.

While most of us immediately connect John with contests, that isn't his first love - it's homebrew. Some of the equipment he's made include a QRP transceiver, a 40-meter receiver, an antenna bridge (which was developed during a club Project Night) and a remote antenna switch.

John acquired his Technician license completely on his own five years ago, but soon realized he knew little about ham radio. Marty, KD7LA became his Elmer; helped him obtain his Extra license, introduced him to OTUARC and the contest committee. Although there were many social events, the two thought there were not enough OTUARC activities geared to radio. Hence, the "Rusty Key Night" and "Two-Meter Happy Hour" contests were conceived.

The opportunity to work alot of different stations in a hurry is one of the reasons John gives for contesting.

John's favorite position for "Happy Hour" is Skyline Memorial Gardens. Last year he won the contest using a two meter hand-held with a 5/8 wave whip; proving that you don't need expensive equipment and high power.

Hoping not to give all his secrets away, this year he constructed a five element beam made from PUC piping (he explains it as half-quad, half-yagi) from an illustration in the ARRL Antenna Handbook. He was able to contact KZTT, ten miles north of Eugene with this antenna.

John and wife Carol have two little girls, Patti and Erin.

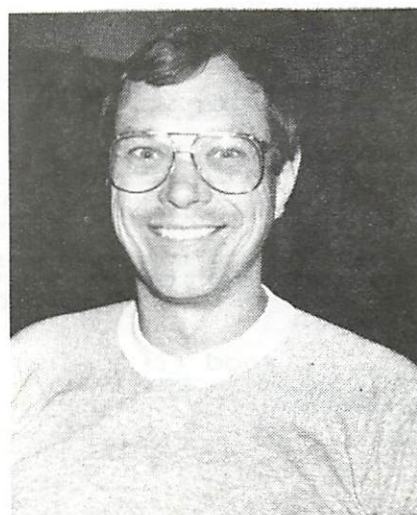
Employed as the Director of the Bio-Medical Physics Department at Good Samaritan Hospital, John is also studying for a degree in Business Administration at PCC; which leaves little time for his favorite hobby at the moment.

Best friends, outside of family, are all hams; John particularly enjoys Field Day with Marty, Steve, N4BOS and Roger, W5SYO. This year their site was in Texas and John strongly feels that a different location each year gives them the necessary training needed to be prepared for an emergency.

John's commitment to helping anyone to grow in our hobby is evident. Anyone who heard him at Happy Hour this year will know he even had a net going so less experienced operators could make contacts on the frequency he was using.

John enjoys CW and HF, has the DXCC award and especially likes Sweepstakes contesting. While he has worked all states, some several times, he has never received a confirmation from Wyoming.

So next time you're headed toward the Tetons or Jackson Hole, make sure you contact John and send him a coveted QSL card. John assures QSL 100 per cent using a card he designed himself. When you hear him on the air, give John a call; it's an experience you'll never forget.



JOHN KOENIG
N8TJ

LIFE MEMBERSHIP EXPLAINED



A number of our "senior" members have asked for a clarification of the BY-LAWS rules regarding life membership.

The rules state that any member 62 years of age or older, who has been a club member for five years will qualify for life member status. Contrary to previous thought, employment (or retirement) has nothing to do with the rules.

If you believe that you meet these requirements, please advise club Secretary Jeff, K7JF and the appropriate records will be reviewed and updated.

Other members have requested information about paid life member status. This provision has not been written into the rules to date, however, the Board recently voted to research the matter. A formula would have to be considered for a dues structure, as well as limits for the application of those dues once they are taken into the treasury. Details will follow as they progress.

Any comments directed to the Board would be greatly appreciated.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

BY WILLIS, N7DZR

There is much pioneering work in the upper microwave ham bands here in the Pacific Northwest.

Tom Hill, WA3RMX, will speak on recent work and will show some of his equipment. He and Lynn, WB7UNU set a new DX record for the 24 GHz band. This will be a "show-and-tell" talk; not an in-depth microwave class. All questions are encouraged.

Tom, an electrical design engineer, has been building Ham microwave rigs for over eight years.

ARRL TEN METER CONTEST COMING SOON

The 14th annual ARRL Ten Meter Contest is coming up December 12-14. Object is to work as many stations as possible in the 48-hour period.

In the past, OTVARC has put together a last-minute station for the contest. In 1983, the ND7T team placed FIRST in the Oregon Section.

With the bands in as good (?) a shape as they now are, there is serious talk of another team effort. Any takers please contact K7JF or K07L.

HEARD AROUND THE CLUB

BY LORNA, KATRFD

In the 3A Battery Class of Field Day we were fifth in the Division with a total of 4,342 points. Thanks to all who participated.

Congratulations to Linda and Marty McKillop, KD7LA on the birth of their daughter, Meagan weighing in at 6 lb. 6 oz on October 9. We'll excuse you this time for not competing in Happy Hour.



Congratulations to David, N7FCA on obtaining his Extra Class license.

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N7DZR
K7JF
K27T
N7BJJ
KA7HJT
KA7NPN
WB7SIC

Meetings are held on the SECOND Wednesday of each month at the Elks Lodge, 3500 S. W. 104 Avenue, Beaverton, Oregon. Dinner at 6:00 Meeting at 7:00 PM.

LORNA'S LOOKOUT

EDITORIAL BY LORNA, KA7RFD



For your consideration and hopeful approval at the next meeting will be a motion that our dues be increased to \$10.00. An initial proposal that dues be increased to \$12.00 (\$1.00 per month) was not recommended by the Board. However, it was recommended that tighter budgetary control be maintained

with all committees attempting to curtail expenses.

For the past few years the club has been financially embarrassed during the last quarter of the year until membership dues started to come in during December and January. In previous years a profit from Sea-Pac and assistance from some of our membership contributing printing supplies has got us through this difficult period.

As you know, Sea-Pac was not a money making event this year and certain members are not in a position to assist with donations at this time.

Of necessity, the Newsletter will immediately be reduced to eight pages; becoming permanent unless dues are increased. This saddens me, when we had 14 contributors last month and could have increased our dues this month had the operating budget allowed.

Let's think a bit about where our current \$8.00 dues are spent. The Newsletter takes a big chunk of your dues; postage costs have decreased due to the new format, but are offset by higher printing costs. The Newsletter is also sent to other radio clubs, libraries and prospective members. A detail of the Newsletter budget will be available at the next club meeting.

Rent is paid for the hall where we hold the Christmas party; soda pop, mixers, ice and eating utensils are also provided. Field Day and campout subsidies provide for the spaghetti feed we always have. We pay for the booth at Beaverton Good Neighbor Days where we have good exposure to the public. Other items include stationery and post office box rentals. Some of the club raffle prizes are paid from dues, which are not supported by ticket sales.

I hear some of you say "I never go to the campout or Field Day." Family or work commitments prevent some of you from attending certain functions, but these are services provided by the club; unless we, as members, ride not to id these



HARD PLACE

events, the service at the present time is there for our use.

Volunteers certainly make our club the success it is. Consider the volunteers who produced the newsletter which was delivered to your mail box; set up the stations you operated when you arrived at Field Day; trimmed the Christmas tree before you walked into the party and checked your log when you entered the contest.

A volunteer usually has an allotted number of hours each week or month to devote to the Club, the hobby and other outside interests; in order to get the job completed as best as possible, maybe the most frugal route is not always taken.

Please think about volunteering when the need arises. We have an excellent club; I hope it's worth it to you to pay \$10.00 a year to belong and contribute to its continued growth.

OOPS

In the article Fran, NITE wrote last month, we should have indicated that the Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL) has members in ALL states not 11 as was printed. Our apologies to Fran and the YLRL for this error.



NEW MEMBERS CORNER

BY KATHRYN, KA7UMB



OTUARC extends a warm welcome to our three new members who joined within the last month.

Dave Bernklau, KA7YKX, Novice, received his membership as a gift from his brother Jim, W7JOL. Dave is working towards his Technician ticket. He and his wife Virgi live in Canby.

Jerry Mohr, KA7ZIK, Technician, is an electrical engineer with the BPA. He and his wife Bobbie live in the Portland area. Jerry is an ARRL member and expressed interest in SSB, CW, RTTY, Packet, UHF/UHF and computers. Other hobbies include photography and camping.

Elmer Sowers, WA7NXO, is retired from Freightliner. He and wife Lucille live in Lake Grove. Elmer is also an ARRL member and expressed almost the same interests as Jerry above. His hobbies are fishing, boating and motor home travel.

Both Elmer and Jerry indicated an interest in assisting on club committees. Committee chairpersons - grab them while you can.

Again welcome to OTUARC. Hope to see you at our next meeting the second Wednesday at the Elks.



CAMPER'S CORNER

BY TONY, KA7ZDE

By the time you receive this edition of the Newsletter, the OTUARC campers will have completed their first scheduled monthly outing. Detroit Lake was the site; fun and conversation was the game. Who else was better qualified than a ham in both categories.

In November, the camping group will be going to Skamokawa! Where the heck is Skamokawa you ask? Well, it's properly called Skamokawa Vista Park, and is located nine miles west of Cathlamet, Washington. Take I-5 north to the Kelso exit and follow Highway 4 west. Another way to get there is on the Oregon side via US Highway 30 (which is a beautiful drive this time of year) and cross the bridge between Rainier and Longview; then pick up Highway 4 out of Longview and proceed west.

The date for this adventure is the weekend of November 15-16. Of course, you can arrive Friday afternoon or evening like most of us will do. At this time we have ten full hook-up spaces reserved, with as much tent space as we can use. I know this is late in the year for you tenters but be brave; you only live once. Come on and enjoy the fun.

The camping area has tennis courts, so if the weather holds you tennis buffs can get some last minute exercise on outdoor courts.



So gather up the radios, kids, dogs or whatever and come to Skamokawa and have some fun.

Hope to see you there!

ANNOUNCING---

The OTUARC Field Day Site Selection Committee will hold its second "town hall" open meeting on Tuesday, November 18 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Round Table Pizza Parlor, in the Hyland Shopping Center, SW Allen Avenue and Murray Blvd. in Beaverton.

This will be the last chance members have to make suggestions prior to the committee's final report in March.

All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

1986 BOY SCOUT JAMBOREE OF THE AIR

BY BOB, KB7CC

On October 18, six members of OTUARC set up the club's emergency trailer and activated two HF and two VHF stations at the Columbia Pacific Council Boy Scouts of America Service Center to work the Jamboree of the Air.



JATO is an annual scouting/ham radio event sponsored by the World Bureau of Scouting. It is always held on the third weekend of October and is set up to let Scouts exchange greetings with other scouts everywhere.

The OTUARC stations were set up with a minimum of advance notice. While every effort was made to get the information out to the various scout units, our timing was somewhat late. Consequently, we did not have the participation of the Scouts that we desired and could have handled. We had 26 boys participate. We worked about 40 stations all over the country and heard many more.

Members participating were K27T, KC7PS, WB6SHR, KA7NPN, KA7DY0 and KB7CC.



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Name _____ Call _____ Phone _____

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Starting (date and time) _____

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To facilitate planning and to insure adequate communications at the requested public service event, please send your request to Mark Walker W7CLU, President, at the above address at the earliest opportunity.

Mark Walker W7CLU 648-2463

Terry Biggs WB7CHK, 648-3887

Randy Cobb KA7HJT, 649-5066

Marty McKillip KD7LA, 644-3244

Warren Winner W7JDT, 644-0752

Dale Justice K7WWR, 648-8232

Al Berg WB7SIC, 640-5456

Cliff Soderback W7VVA, 645-1447

Roger Steyaert K7RXV, 642-1419

BOARD MEETING NOTES

BY JEFF, K7JF

The OVARC Board of Directors met October 21 for their quarterly meeting.

At WBSIC is pursuing the sale of the Club's Kaypro computer; should bring in between \$300-400.

Greg, W7AGC will discuss 1987 Sea-Pac convention with Doc, W7GMC in short order. Number of housekeeping issues are pending.

Pursuant to the club By-Laws, Jeff, K7JF declared vacant the Trustee position held by Linda, N7CZY.

In light of the pending elections, the Board decided not to solicit a replacement for the position.

Jeff, K7JF lead a discussion of various expenses compared to anticipated dues

income for next year. The Newsletter will

cost just under \$1 per member for the coming year;

assuming eight pages per issue.

The board endorsed a dues increase. Notice

of a vote appears elsewhere in this Newsletter issue.



Jeff, K7JF lead a discussion concerning a proposed life

membership status for those willing to pay a certain dues structure. The

Board decided to further research the matter with K7JF to draft the

proposed By-Law changes for review in January.

Paul, WBSHR discussed plans for the upcoming Christmas Party, to be held

December 6.

The Board discussed a Family

membership dues structure, based upon full payment for the first

licensed spouse or other dependents living at the same address.

At WBSIC talked about plans for the 1987 Sea-Pac convention.

ARL status is still pending, however, Randy, K2ZT will follow up with the League.

There are a number of ARRL policy changes which may affect exhibitors.

Paul, WBSHR discussed plans to bring back Project Nite with receiver and transmitter kits on the drawing

board. The Board briefly discussed a plaque or similar recognition for Club Past Presidents. No action was taken

pending further research.

All members are encouraged to attend this meeting. Thank You.

SPECIAL REPORT

Lucky, W7LRB

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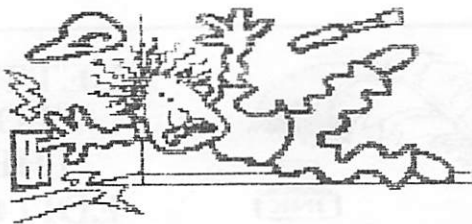
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LETTER
TO
THE
EDITOR





MISPLACED BOLTS

BY BILL, N7GR0

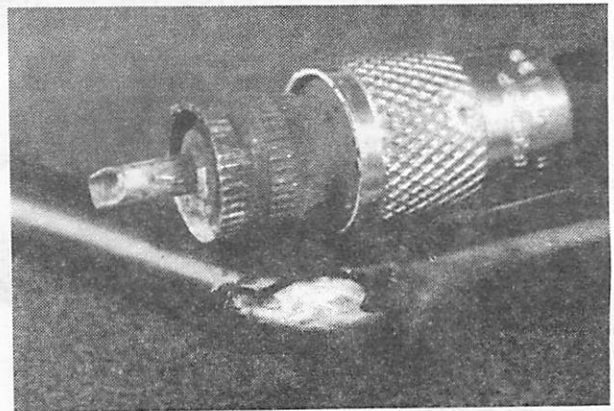
Other than a forecast for isolated thundershowers, it was a gorgeous fall Friday afternoon in Portland. The sun was shining brightly while towering thunderheads were building over the mountains. Just to be safe, I decided to disconnect and ground my antennas; an end-fed vee for HF and verticals for two meters and 440 MHz. Leslie (my wife) wasn't to be home for a couple of hours. Meanwhile, I piled into the car and headed south for Medford.

Saturday morning the phone rang early: it was my wife telling me the chilling story of what had happened the evening before. Our neighbor came running over and asked Leslie if she "had checked the back yard" just as she was arriving home from work. Curious about what was so important (usually there's not much excitement in our back yard) she listened in disbelief as the neighbor reported that our home had been hit by a bolt of lightning! Upon my return home, we began to survey the damage wrought by what may be called rather serious QRN.

The two meter vertical took a solid hit. The plastic PVC cap and sealant had been stripped clean from the base of the vertical element. Small bits of plastic were scattered about the yard and one of the eighth-inch brass ground radials is now a badly contorted stick. Where the coax went down the roof and turned to run under the eaves, there was a large blowout marking the spot at which the lightning ran out of patience and jumped to the ground, below. The coax writhed so strongly from the high electrical current that the plastic cable-ties were broken, not

burned, from the two points where the coax was anchored at the base of the two meter mast and at a gutter support spike. Four lengths of badly-burned wire were all that was left of the end-fed vee. The PVC housing for the matching network at the feed end was blown to bits, leaving the charred remains of its contents hanging pathetically from the fence.

Because a lot of wiring for electrical, telephone and cable TV runs through the attic near where the lightning struck, considerable damage was done to anything connected to it. A cord-mounted switch for a table lamp was blown apart, the nearby telephone suffered a charred receptacle and a cordset burned at both ends. The electronic clock radio right next to

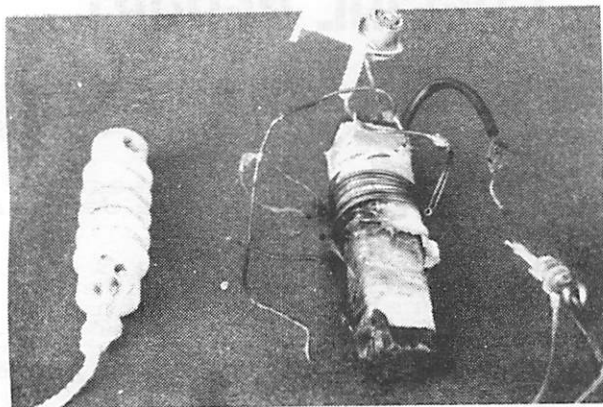


the phone and lamp works perfectly. The color TV is now a black-and-white set; the 75 to 300 ohm transformer of the back blew to pieces. Parts of its plastic housing were found all over the living room; its blackened skeleton hanging by a single wire.

When Leslie took the damaged TV cable decoder to the Storer office, the clerk said that they had replaced over 400 units as a result of the storm. The insulation is blown from the TV cable as it makes its way around the house where lightning found its way to ground at two downspouts and the gas meter.

Inside the shack, the news was not good. The grounding switch for the HF antenna had been wrenched from the wall; its innards fused and its black outline left to mark its usual mount. Although the antenna leads were disconnected between the grounding switch and the rig, sparks blackened the case of the Yaesu 157; neither it nor its power supply are operable. The coiled cord of a high intensity lamp has hundreds of copper strands extending out of the insulation and short bits of stranded lamp-cord wire are scattered all over the place. The lamp ended up across the room! An AC plugstrip under the radio shelf was physically distorted. While three small battery-powered digital clocks still keep accurate time, each was reset to some odd hour and/or minute; apparently caused by

continued on next page



MISPLACED BOLTS (continued)

The strong electrical field generated by the lightning as it danced around the shack.

The major concern now is for those items which may have been damaged but which do not show immediate problems; appliance motors, transformers which may have sparked or house wiring hidden in the walls with insulation stripped off. We can count ourselves lucky; we were fortunate in not having a fire.

The good news is that lightning never strikes the same place twice. The bad news is that the good news only applies to those objects vaporized when it strikes!

STANLEY HAMM ON TOWERS

BY STAN, W7NH

Most crank-up towers are rated for some number of square feet of antennas at a wind velocity of 50 MPH. Unfortunately, 50 MPH is not a good wind speed for design in the US, according to recorded wind data; here in the Northwest, 100 MPH is a better design goal.



Most hams probably don't realize that wind loading goes up by the

SQUARE of the wind velocity. This means that when the wind speed doubles, say from 50 to 100 MPH, the same antenna will be putting FOUR TIMES the load on the tower. One could easily conclude that if you reduced the antenna size to one fourth of the 50 MPH rating the system will then be safe at 100 MPH. NOT TRUE! Only part of the wind load on the tower is due to the antenna. Another major part is the wind load of the tower itself. My guess is that most non-guyed crank-ups would not hold themselves up if fully extended in a 100 MPH wind; even if NO antenna was on top. You now know why crank-ups are always rated at 50 MPH. If the manufacturers told you what to expect at 100 MPH, I doubt if many would be sold.

One crank-up tower manufacturer I know of supplied small pieces of bent metal to be installed in the tower when fully extended. The metal pieces were to be installed across horizontal braces such that the tower legs of the upper sections would rest on them when the cable was slack. The idea was to remove the load from the cable and winch. One detail they failed to explain is how one should install these pieces of metal without climbing the tower. I guess you should hire a crane to lift you high enough to slip the metal 'stops' in place. Once in place, the tower cannot be lowered, so if wind is



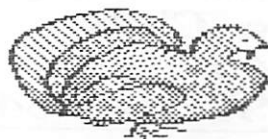
forecasted, you had better contact the crane company fast so you can crank down your tower. Sounds pretty risky to me.



Another tower manufacturer "improved" the situation by permanently installing the 'stops' on the tower and allowing the owner of the tower to control them from the ground with some extra control cables. Unfortunately, it's impossible to see what's really going on from the ground, and every so often, something would jam somewhere on the tower and it would be impossible to either lower the tower (since a 'stop' would not come out) or take the strain off the cable and winch (because a 'stop' would not drop in place.)

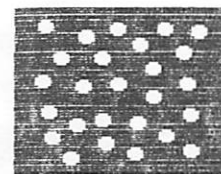
One ham I know wanted every safety feature on his tower and tried to order one with 'stops' that could be controlled from the ground; a positive pull-down cable so it would come down in a wind, and a motor drive to do the work. The tower company refused to supply a tower with this combination of features because of what could happen if the owner tried to lower the tower without first removing the 'stops.' The positive pull-down cable, driven by the motorized winch, would be pulling against the 'stops' until something failed. The owners of the company who refused to supply such a tower figured human nature would eventually lead to disaster and they did not wish to contribute. I guess you just can't have everything!

Stay tuned for Part IV.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER STAFF

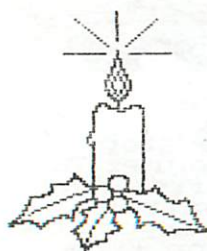
SIC HUMOR BY AL, WB7SIC



I HEARD YOU WENT HUNTING

1986 CHRISTMAS PARTY

BY PAUL, WB6SHR



Well folks, it is getting close to that time of the year again for the club's annual Christmas party. We seriously thought about changing the name to "OTUARC Winter Party" since it will be held early in December for the second year in a row. The party is scheduled for Saturday, December 6, 1986 and it

will be located at St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 11265 SW Cabot Street in Beaverton. The party will start at 7PM.

We have located excellent entertainment in the Bavarian Dancers, who do everything from polkas to waltzes to whatever your favorite music may be.

We plan to have door prizes and a raffle like we did last year. The club will supply coffee, punch, mixers, ice, cups and eating utensils. Please take note this is a BYOB affair. We ask that you bring your favorite buffet item. Please make it light such as a cold cut tray, dessert or salad.

I will be asking for help at the next club meeting; we will hold a planning meeting the third week in November. If you can help, PLEASE volunteer.

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